

Tips for Writing a Rationale

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What is a rationale?

A rationale is a justification for doing something. The role of the rationale is to provide a written statement of teachers' best professional perspective on their curriculum and instructional practices. Teachers must make a decision about what they will teach and how they will then teach it, decisions that will achieve their purposes and address their students' needs. A rationale can provide a framework for planning. It should express a planner's values at least in terms of the learner, the society, and the subject matter. A rationale should express the value of the subject matter to its particular audience.

Tips for writing a rationale

A rationale should include:

- a brief summary of the work and its educational significance
- the purposes of using the work and how it will be used
- how you will take into account students' interests and educational needs
- explanation of why you've done something with the reasons and logic behind it, not just saying what you've done
- educational goals that describe in general terms what the students should obtain as a result of this course

Reflective questions for reviewing your rationale:

- Having read the rationale, how does it conceptualize the learner, the subject matter, and the society?
- What are the educational goals stated in this rationale?
- What level of course work does this rationale imply?
- What assumptions does the rationale make with respect to the role of the student?